

**MINUTES
GENERAL COUNSEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2021**

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MIDDLETOWN, CONN.

Present: Chairwoman and Councilwoman Carta, Councilwoman Blackwell, Councilman Nocera, Councilwoman Salafia and Councilman Ford (joined during public comment). Staff: Deputy General Counsel Kori Wisneski, Justin Richardson, Director of Human Resources

Invitees: Christopher Forte, Jen Hobart, Brooke Carta, Christopher Holden, Kelly Robinson, William Russo

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comment:

Jen Hobart – Ms. Hobart is the Local 466 President. She spoke on behalf of the Building Superintendent IV job description. She explains how she supports the job description because of the drastic changes and added buildings to supervise.

Brooke Carta – Ms. Carta is the Local 466 Vice President. She supports the Building Superintendent IV job description. The job went from supervising one location to five. She also hopes the commission will support it as well.

Kelly Robinson – Mr. Robinson appreciates the consideration and thanked everyone for listening to his job description change.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilwoman Blackwell made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 regular meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Nocera. The Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

A. Ordinance – LGBTQIA+ Commissions

Attorney Forte introduced the ordinance. He explained how this is going from an advisory committee, which was created for purposes of organizing Middletown Pride, to a commission. The thought is to expand it from a 9 member committee to a 12 member committee with the plan to give voice to more people in our community. Councilman Pessina and Nocera, and Councilwoman Blackwell are in full support of the ordinance. Councilwoman Salafia brought up the fact that the ordinance does not mention how many council members will be a part of this commission and if they need to be an elector of Middletown. She stated that if it is becoming a commission it needs to have three council members. Attorney Forte explained that

the intent is to have more members from the LGBTQ community as a part of the commission.

Councilman Nocera made a MOTION to approve the ordinance. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell.

More discussion ensued and Councilman Nocera made a friendly amendment to have one council member from each party, all members need to be electors, and there should be 13 members in the commission. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. The Motion passed unanimously.

The commission voted unanimously on the Motion to approve the ordinance with the friendly amendment.

B. Ordinance – Firearms Training Facility Bond Ordinance

Attorney Wisneski introduced the ordinance. She explained that Deputy Director of Public Works Chris Holden staffs the Firearms Building Committee. Discussion ensued regarding the change to section 2 of the ordinance to allow the City to accept funds from the federal government to build out the firearms training facility.

Councilwoman Blackwell made a MOTION to approve the ordinance. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Salafia. The Motion passed unanimously.

C. Job Description – Police Chief

Director Richardson introduced the job description for Chief of Police. He explained that the job description did not allow for the nationwide search that the Mayor wanted for the Police Chief position. Chief of Staff Bobbye Peterson explained that the job description required applicants to be post certified, which only qualify CT residents and negated the intent to do a nationwide search. The job description is being changed to correct this discrepancy.

Councilman Nocera made a MOTION to approve the job description. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. The Motion passed unanimously.

D. Job Description – Building Superintendent IV (City Hall)

Director Richardson introduced the job description of Building Superintendent IV at City Hall. This position now oversees Oddfellows, the Sports Hall of Fame, Military Museum and the Green Street Arts building. Director Russo explained that now that the City owns these building he has been asking the City Hall building superintendent to manage these locations. More discussion ensued.

Councilman Nocera made a MOTION to approve the job description. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. The Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

MOTION to Adjourn by Councilwoman Blackwell. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Nocera. The Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.